

## Patent Abstracts of Japan

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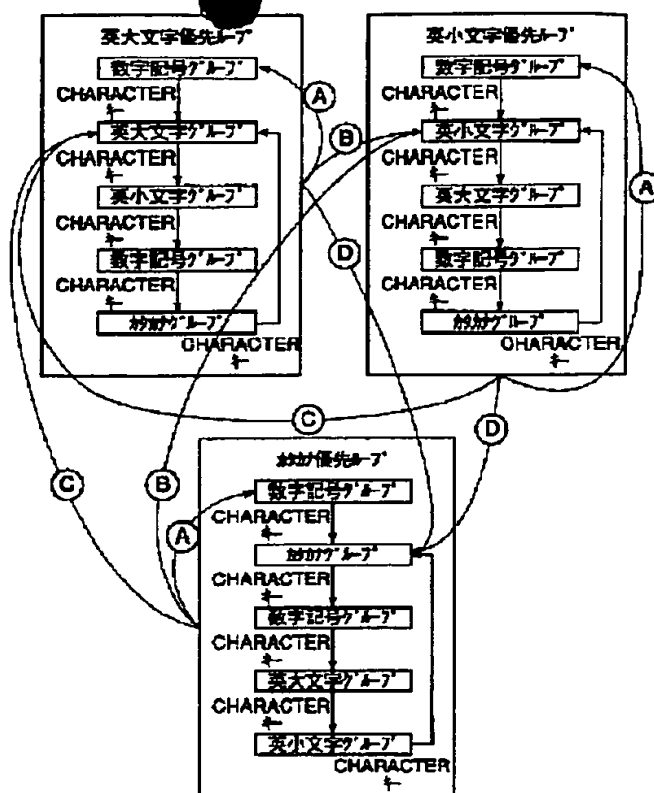
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TITLE : CHARACTER INPUT DEVICE



**ABSTRACT :** PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To reduce lowering of input efficiency by cyclic switching and to simplify the procedure of character input, by changing the character selection group switching order to an optimal switching order pattern from among plural switching order patterns according to the character selection group to which a finally inputted character belongs.

**SOLUTION:** The character selection groups mean are an English capital letter selection group, an English small letter selection group, a numeric character selection group, and a katakana selection group. At the time of character input, a specified character selection group to which a character to be inputted belongs is switched into cyclic from among the plural character selection groups at every operations of a character selection group switching means, and the order of switching of character selection group by the character selection group switching means is changed to an optimal switching order pattern from among the plural switching order patterns according to the character selection group to which the finally inputted character belongs. Thus, the number of times of operations of the character selection group switching means is reduced comparing with a conventional character input operation, and input efficiency is improved.

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